





**FUNERAL ADDRESS.**

H. H. H. H.

REGISTER ADDRESS



# **FUNERAL ADDRESS,**

DELIVERED ON THE

TWENTY-SIXTH OF MAY, 1818,

AT THE

**INTERMENT OF DOCTOR JAMES TILLARY,**

LATE PRESIDENT OF THE ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY OF  
THE CITY OF NEW-YORK.

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**BY DAVID HOSACK, M. D.**

Professor in the University of New-York.

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DELIVERED AT THE REQUEST OF THE ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY.

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*Friends and Fellow Members of the  
St. Andrew's Society,*

UPON this melancholy event, some expression of those feelings which pervade every heart in this assembly, is due to the memory of our distinguished associate, whose remains now lie before you. In the absence of his much loved reverend friend and pastor of this church,\* by whom this duty would have been performed in a manner more suited to the solemnity of this occasion, and more in consonance with your feelings, I am induced to appear before you, only by my sincere regard for the memory of our late excellent colleague, and to testify to you my desire to comply with your wishes in expressing that respect which we all entertain for our deceased president and fellow citizen. There is a con-

\* The Rev. Dr. Mason.

solation, melancholy indeed, but not the less grateful on that account, in paying the humble tribute of esteem and affection to the memory of one who exhibited so many qualities worthy of our imitation.

I knew him, and received much of his friendship at an early period of my life ; and when on a visit to the land of his birth-place, had the satisfaction of hearing from his contemporaries, who distinctly recollected him at school, that he was even then regarded as a youth of promise ; and at that early period of his life, was characterized by that integrity and virtue which marked the remainder of his days.

Having laid the usual foundation of classical learning, in which his attainments were very respectable, and having received some preliminary medical knowledge in the north of Scotland, he enjoyed the benefit of a course of instruction at the great medical school of Edinburgh. Although he did not remain at the university the time prescribed to obtain its honours, he assiduously attended the



various lectures, which qualified him for the station he soon afterwards obtained, that of a surgeon in the army of Great Britain. In that capacity, at an early period of the revolutionary war, he first came to this country, which he made the permanent place of his residence.

Shortly after his arrival in this city, he assumed the character of a practitioner of medicine and surgery. To the former branch, however, he principally confined his attention, and for more than forty years exercised its responsible and important duties—with what success the inhabitants of this city can abundantly testify; you all can testify, for you have had daily evidence of his professional merit and skill. It is not my intention to detain you by a recital of the various qualifications which adorned his professional character—those will, doubtless, be delineated by another society, of which he was a conspicuous member, and where he also for many years occupied the most elevated station in their power to bestow.\* But I

\* Dr. Tillary was for several years the President of the Medical Society of the county of New-York.

must, nevertheless, be permitted to bear my testimony to his merit as a practitioner of the healing art. He seemed by nature to be peculiarly capacitated for the exercise of the medical profession; and the education which he had received was sufficient to elicit the native energies of his mind for that purpose. He was a substantial classical scholar; his reading of medical authors was limited, but judicious; among these, Sydenham and Huxham were his favourites. He was a patient and close observer at the bed-side of the sick—he reflected—and his decisions evinced the solidity of his understanding. Few men, I think, surpassed him in strength of judgment; and this qualification of the head gave him that elevated station among many of his fellow practitioners, which he so long and deservedly enjoyed. He was sceptical of novelty in medical prescriptions, and slow in adopting new methods of cure. He carefully observed the progress of disease—he discovered its nature, and was bold and energetic in his principles of treatment. He was confident of his own practical knowledge, and inspired a corresponding confidence in those for whom he prescribed—few men

performed their duty to their patients with more fidelity. He spared no pains in collecting all the symptoms from which the disease might be ascertained, and the corresponding remedies directed for its removal.

During those memorable visitations of God's providence on our city, in 1795 and 1798, when pestilence spread its devastation upon our shores, though fully conscious of our impending danger, he abided with us ; and no consideration whatever could induce him to swerve from his duty—a faithful sentinel, he remained at his post.—Amidst the distressing and fatal ravages of yellow-fever, Dr. 'Tillary spared no exertions that could contribute to the comfort of his suffering fellow-citizens. He visited and attended with unceasing assiduity all who called for his professional services, without reserve ; and it may be added, that to the poor and forsaken, from whom no recompense could be expected, his labours were for the most part devoted ; the more wealthy, who were able to remunerate

him, having chiefly abandoned the city, then the scene of desolation.

I frequently conferred with him during those anxious and melancholy seasons. I remember well his perseverance and his fortitude ; nor were they forgotten by his fellow-citizens : For the important services he thus performed to the community, he was afterwards rewarded by the honourable office of resident physician ; the duties of which, though full of hazard and responsibility, were performed with that fidelity which correct principles of conduct must ever secure.

In relation to medical decorum, he was a pattern of excellence to his professional brethren ; with reference to the rights and feelings of the junior members in particular, his conduct was peculiarly delicate and honourable.

As a citizen of this republic, I may venture to say, that while he remembered with becoming feelings the land of his forefathers, he possessed an ardent attachment to his adopted country. He



admired the genius and nature of our social, political and religious institutions. He was not an indifferent spectator of passing events, and in that species of knowledge which is acquired by intercourse with the world, he was excelled by few.

*Fellow Members of the St. Andrew's Society,*

Your bereavement is of no common kind. You have lost him to whom you have looked up as your principal. After the resignation of a gentleman,\* who many years filled and reflected honour upon the office of president of the society, our lamented associate united your hearts and suffrages as the next most worthy of your confidence, and in that responsible office, now vacant by death, he discharged its duties with distinguished ability and universal satisfaction. As the physician of your charitable and praise-worthy institution, an office which he filled for many years, the disinterested generosity which he manifested in his medical attention to the indigent poor, who are the objects of its charity, is familiarly known to you all.

\* Robert Lenox, Esq.

It may be asked, had the deceased no failings ? He had his failings, but they were of that minor character, that are inseparable from our nature :— He was human, and he erred.

Let those who delight to dwell upon the shade of human character, search out the frailties of our deceased brother ; for ourselves, we can shed the tear for his weaknesses, and abundantly rejoice at his numerous excellencies.

Indulge me, if, before I close, I speak of his christian virtues ; they are a proper topic for a christian audience—they made up a large portion of his character, and they ought not to be omitted. On this momentous subject, he has not left the world to doubt of his religious creed. He has long, both in public and private, evinced his faith and his hope ; and has declared his firm belief in the great truths of the christian religion ; a belief arising not merely from those impressions which an early pious education leaves upon the mind, but from a careful examination of the evidences upon which it has been em-

braced by most of the distinguished men who have adorned the world. His course of reading on religious subjects was extensive : the volume of nature, too, he consulted with additional strength to those opinions which he had derived from revelation, and he adds another happy example to the many already on record, of the possession of sound christian principles by a member of a profession in which it is too generally and most erroneously supposed, religious scepticism abounds. To the christian philanthropist, moreover, it is consoling to reflect, that at a time when, to use the language of an eloquent American divine,\* “ scepticism is breathing forth its pestilential vapour and polluting, by its unhallowed touch, things divine and sacred, so many of the great and the wise, as if touched with an impulse from heaven, appear as the advocates of christianity,” and present, with one accord, their learning, their talents, and their virtues, as an offering on the altar of religion.

Religious consolation, while it supported him in life, shed a ray of glory around the dying bed of our

\* The Rev. Dr. Nett.

deceased brother, and in his latter moments, to the exclusion of every other concern, claimed all his thoughts.

In the records of those eminent men who have supported the medical character of our country, Dr. Tillary will maintain a highly respectable rank ; and while talents, inflexible integrity, and distinguished virtue, are held in remembrance, his memory will be cherished by his fellow men, especially by that society of his native and adopted countrymen, with whom he was so long and so intimately connected.

I lament to add that the circumstances\* under which I now address you, have not permitted a more ample expression of that esteem and respect which we all cherish for our departed friend.

\* This address was delivered at the request of the St. Andrew's Society, on the day subsequent to the death of Dr. Tillary.













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